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said prompt relating to an action other than the special action and suggesting the key operation to the player via output means, such that the special action becomes operable for the first time in the game.

AK
2. (Amended) The image processing apparatus, according to claim 1, wherein said image processing means further comprises:

recognition means for recognizing key operations by said player; and determining means for determining whether the key operations by the player match the actions of a displayed object according to said prompt processing means.

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2. (Amended) The image processing apparatus, according to any of claims 2 through 3, wherein, when a series of operations is necessary for the key operations to realize special actions by said displayed object, each of those key operations is output in a prompt while being shown by the actions of the displayed object.

SP
2. (Amended) An electronic game apparatus comprising the image processing apparatus according to any of claims 2 through 3.

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8. (Amended) A video game storage medium wherein is stored a program for executing the image processing means according to any of claims 2 through 3.

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--9. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said image processing means display symbols for a plurality of keys to be operated on a sub-screen, according to the results of the determination of a match by said determining means.

10. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said image processing means display symbols for a plurality of keys to be operated on a sub-screen, according to the results of the determination of a match by said determining means, and further wherein said sub-screen display is executed in the case when a match is not affirmed even when said match determination is made for a plurality of times.

11. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said image processing means display symbols for a plurality of keys to be operated on a sub-screen, according to the results of the determination of a match by said determining means.

12. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said image processing means display symbols for a plurality of keys to be operated on a sub-screen, according to the results of the determination of a match by said determining means, and further wherein said sub-screen display is executed in the case when a

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match is not affirmed even when said match determination is made for a plurality of times.

13. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said image processing means display symbols for a plurality of keys to be operated on a sub-screen, according to the results of the determination of a match by said determining means.

14. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said image processing means display symbols for a plurality of keys to be operated on a sub-screen, according to the results of the determination of a match by said determining means, and further wherein said sub-screen display is executed in the case when a match is not affirmed even when said match determination is made for a plurality of times.

15. (New) An image processing method comprising:
outputting a prompt which indirectly teaches a key operation corresponding to a special action of a game which was never before operable during the game, said prompt relating to an action other than the special action and suggesting the key operation to a player, such that the special action becomes operable for the first time in the game.

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16. (New) The image processing apparatus, according to claim 1, wherein, when a series of operations is necessary for the key operations to realize special actions by a displayed object, each of those key operations is output in a prompt while being shown by the actions of the displayed object.

Sub
17. (New) An electronic game apparatus comprising the image processing apparatus according to claim 1.

18 (New) A video game storage medium wherein is stored a program for executing the image processing means according to claim 1.

19. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said image processing means display symbols for a plurality of keys to be operated on a sub-screen, according to the results of a determination of a match by a determining means.

20. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said image processing means display symbols for a plurality of keys to be operated on a sub-screen, according to the results of a determination of a match by a determining means, and further wherein said sub-screen display is executed in the case when a match is not affirmed even when said match determination is made for a plurality of times.

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21. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said image processing means display symbols for a plurality of keys to be operated on a sub-screen, according to the results of a determination of a match by a determining means.

22. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said image processing means display symbols for a plurality of keys to be operated on a sub-screen, according to the results of a determination of a match by a determining means, and further wherein said sub-screen display is executed in the case when a match is not affirmed even when said match determination is made for a plurality of times.

23. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said image processing means display symbols for a plurality of keys to be operated on a sub-screen, according to the results of a determination of a match by a determining means.

24. (New) The image processing apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said image processing means display symbols for a plurality of keys to be operated on a sub-screen, according to the results of a determination of a match by a determining means, and further wherein said sub-screen display is executed in the case when a

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